

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A wound dressing comprising a therapeutic agent and a barrier layer for initially separating the therapeutic agent from wound fluid when in use, wherein the barrier layer comprises modified elastin wherein
 - (i) the elastin has been modified so that it is less susceptible to degradation by one or more non-elastase proteases found in wound fluid; or
 - (ii) the elastin has been modified so that there are additional elastase sensitive regions which are selectively degraded by elastase.
2. (original) A wound dressing according to claim 1 wherein the non-elastase protease is a matrix metalloproteinase, preferably the 72kDa gelatinase (MMP2), the 92kDa gelatinase (MMP9), matrilysin or metalloelastase.
3. (original) A wound dressing according to claim 1 wherein the barrier layer comprises elastin that has been modified so that it is less susceptible to degradation by a non-elastase protease found in wound fluid and wherein at least some of the Pro-Xaa-(Gly/Ala)-Leu/Ile, Pro-Xaa-Ala-Ala-Leu/Ile, Pro-Xaa-(Gly/Ala)-Val/Phe or Pro-Xaa-Ala-Ala-Val/Phe sequences (wherein Xaa denotes any amino acid) are modified in such a way that the sequences are less susceptible, and preferably no longer susceptible, to cleavage by the 92kDa gelatinase.
4. (currently amended) A wound dressing according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the elastin has been modified so that it is less susceptible to degradation by a non-elastase protease and has been modified so that there are additional elastase sensitive regions which are selectively degraded by elastase.
5. (currently amended) A wound dressing according to claim ~~1 or 4~~ , wherein the elastin contains additional Gly-Gly, Ala-Gly, Val-Gly, Gly-Ala or Ala-Ala sequences.

6. (currently amended) A wound dressing according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of antimicrobial substances, pain relieving substances, protease inhibitors, and mixtures thereof.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9 (Cancelled)

10 (Cancelled)